

# Reading Habits of Students of Arts, Commerce, Science, and B.Sc. Nursing Colleges, Borsad A Study

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**Abstract**—Reading is one of the most effective means of gaining knowledge, enhancing skills, and developing personality. In the modern digital era, students' reading habits are undergoing significant changes. This paper highlights the reading preferences, sources, and practices of Arts, Commerce, Science, and B.Sc. Nursing students of Borsad colleges. The study is based on a descriptive survey conducted among 200 students.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Reading is widely acknowledged as a fundamental component of academic achievement and cognitive development. Within the context of higher education, reading contributes significantly to students' intellectual growth, critical thinking abilities, language proficiency, and overall academic success. It serves not only as a means of acquiring information but also as a mechanism for cultivating analytical and reflective thinking. In the Indian higher education system, which encompasses a diverse array of academic disciplines, students' reading habits are often shaped by their fields of study, curriculum structures, and socio-cultural environments.<sup>(1)</sup>

In recent years, traditional reading practices have been notably influenced by the rapid advancement of digital technologies. The proliferation of online content, e-books, and social media platforms has altered the way students engage with reading materials. While digital resources have enhanced accessibility and convenience, they have simultaneously contributed to a decline in sustained and in-depth reading practices, particularly among younger students. A growing preference for brief, visually oriented content over comprehensive textual reading has raised concerns regarding the depth of student learning and comprehension.<sup>(2)</sup>

Given this shift, it becomes imperative to examine reading behaviours across different academic streams,

as each discipline imposes unique cognitive demands and content requirements. For example, students in the Arts are more frequently engaged with theoretical and literary texts; Commerce students are inclined toward financial, economic, and business-related literature; Science and B.Sc. students are typically exposed to technical and empirical texts; whereas B.Sc. Nursing students primarily engage with clinical, procedural, and evidence-based healthcare literature. These disciplinary distinctions necessitate a detailed and comparative investigation into how students read, what they read, and for what purpose.<sup>(3)</sup>

Borsad, a town situated in the Anand district of Gujarat, hosts several degree-granting institutions offering undergraduate education in Arts, Commerce, Science, B.Sc., and B.Sc. Nursing. The academic diversity and demographic heterogeneity of the student population in Borsad present a valuable context for studying variations in reading habits across disciplines. Despite the relevance of such a study, empirical research focusing on this region remains limited. There is a need to explore students' reading frequency, their preferences for print versus digital formats, patterns of library usage, and the broader influence of technology on reading behaviour.

Accordingly, the present study aims to assess and compare the reading habits of students enrolled in various undergraduate programs, namely B.Sc., Arts, Commerce, Science, and B.Sc. Nursing in colleges located in Borsad. The investigation will encompass several parameters, including types of reading materials accessed, the regularity of reading practices, preferred media formats, library engagement, motivations for reading (academic or recreational), and the impact of digital technology on students' reading patterns.

The findings of this study are expected to provide insights that can inform academic stakeholders,

including educators, librarians, and policymakers, in designing effective interventions and strategies to foster a strong and sustainable reading culture in higher education institutions, particularly within the context of increasing digital distractions and declining reading engagement.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the reading habits of students of Arts, Commerce, Science, and B.Sc. Nursing colleges in Borsad.
- To identify the resources (print/digital) used by students for reading.
- To compare the differences in reading habits among students of different streams.
- To analyze the role of libraries in promoting reading habits among students.

## III. METHODOLOGY

This research applies a descriptive approach to examine the reading habits of undergraduate students from Arts, Commerce, Science, and B.Sc. Nursing disciplines in colleges situated in Borsad, Gujarat. A total of 200 students were selected for the study, with 50 participants representing each academic stream, using a stratified sampling method to ensure equitable representation. The purpose of the study is to explore the variations, preferences, and behavioural patterns in students' reading habits across different fields of study. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and supplemented by interviews, integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods. The information gathered was systematically analysed to identify key trends concerning reading frequency, types of reading materials, format preferences (print or digital), and the role of digital technology in shaping students' reading practices.

## IV. RESULT

The study revealed distinct reading preferences among students from different academic streams. Arts students primarily engaged with literature, novels, and socio-cultural texts, while Commerce students favoured materials related to economics, management, and competitive exam preparation. Science students

predominantly utilized reference books, research journals, and electronic resources. Nursing students focused mainly on medical literature, nursing journals, and health-related research papers. Across all disciplines, digital resources such as e-books, online journals, and web articles were widely accessed. Additionally, the availability of well-equipped library facilities positively influenced and enhanced students' reading habits.

## V. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the reading habits of students vary across disciplines, but digital resources have a common influence in all streams. Academic libraries, teachers, and institutions play a significant role in promoting reading culture. The integration of both traditional and digital resources is essential for developing strong and effective reading habits among students.

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